

# **Attachment 11**

## **Program Preferences**

### **Drainage Basin C North Regional Detention Pond and Pump Station**

The project is located in Reclamation District (RD) 784 and includes the Drainage Basin C North Regional Detention Basin and the associated pumping facilities. Reclamation District 784 has previously constructed the Drainage Basin C North Regional Detention pond as part of the project and now seeks funding to complete the discharge pumping facilities to complete the project. The Program Preferences, as described in Section II.F of the Guidelines, state that “For eligible SWFM funding, projects which: a) are not receiving State funding for flood control or flood prevention projects pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §75034 or b) provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge”; and “Address Statewide priorities (Table 1 establishes the specific Statewide Priorities for the IRWM Grant Program.)”. The following describe ways in which the Drainage Basin C North Regional Detention Pond and Pump Station contribute to the Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities.

#### **Program Preferences**

*Water Quality* – The detention facility for this project is considered a “wet pond” by storm water management definition. According to the EPA, “wet ponds” are constructed basins that have a permanent pool of water throughout the year (or at least throughout the wet season). Ponds treat incoming storm water runoff by allowing particles to settle and algae to take up nutrients. The primary removal mechanism is settling as storm water runoff resides in this pool, and pollutant uptake, particularly of nutrients, also occurs through biological activity in the pond.<sup>i</sup>

*Groundwater Recharge* – The Yuba County Water Agency Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) (December 2010) is the locally adopted plan for the entire County. The plan provides information “to build on and formalize the historically successful management of the County’s groundwater resource, and to develop a framework for implementing future activities” with an overall goal “to maintain a viable groundwater resource for the beneficial use of the people of Yuba County”. Although the GMP does not specifically discuss the use of the Regional Pump Station and Basin, it does discuss objectives and elements in which the project is compliant with, including the following:

- Section 3.4.5 – Pursuing Partnership Opportunities – “YCWA is also leading the IRWMP and implementation activities, which involve ten partners working together to manage the water resources of Yuba County in a coordinated plan. The IRWMP is an important mechanism for obtaining State grant money for water management programs and projects through the sale of water bonds. Action: YCWA will continue to track and pursue grant

opportunities to fund groundwater management activities and local water infrastructure projects.” The Regional Pump Station and Basin is an important IRWMP project in Yuba County for water management and therefore meets the intent of this GMP component.

- Section 3.6.3 – Protection of Recharge Areas – According to the GMP, “The California Legislature and Governor, as well as private citizens, have become increasingly concerned about groundwater quality and public supply well closures because of the detection of chemicals, such as the gasoline additive MTBE, solvents from industrial sources, and more recently perchlorate. To address these concerns, the Supplemental Report of the 1999 Budget Act and later the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (AB 599 – Statutes of 2001) required SWRCB to develop a comprehensive ambient groundwater monitoring plan.” The GMP continues with objectives to specifically address monitoring requirements to address protection of recharge areas. Although the Regional Pump Station and Basin facility does not directly address monitoring objectives, it does provide benefit to protection of groundwater recharge in that the pond provides a collection and detention system alleviating historical overland flows that contain runoff from industrial areas near the Yuba County Airport industrial area. Without the improvements being completed through this project those potentially contaminated flows would flood surrounding lands allowing infiltration into surrounding commercial, rural residential, and/or agricultural wells creating groundwater contamination. Therefore, this project contributes to the objective of the GMP by greatly reducing the frequency in which flows will leave drainage channels thereby reducing the potential for contamination through surrounding wells.
- Section 3.7.3. Evaluation of Future Land Use Changes and Impact to Groundwater Resources – “Yuba County is updating its General Plan concurrent with the update of this GMP. Representatives from the County have indicated significant growth is projected in the County, particularly in the South Yuba subbasin area. Much of the growth will take place through replacement of agricultural lands, supplied with surface water, for municipal or industrial land uses, supplied by groundwater. This type of land use change and associated water supply has potential to affect groundwater conditions because of both increased pumping and a loss of aquifer recharge from agricultural irrigation.” The Regional Pump Station and Basin seek to address expected increased urban and industrial runoff concerns by creating adequate detention to capture the increased runoff in RD 784 drainage basins B and C allowing natural water quality improvements and groundwater recharge to occur with the ability to discharge flows, when needed, to avoid local flooding concerns.

Furthermore, surface water detention provides the natural cleansing and percolating effect resulting in groundwater benefit. Therefore, although this project is not specifically addressed in the GMP, it does provide benefits towards the overall goals and objectives of that plan.

*Integration of Water Management with Land Use Planning* - As described above, the Regional Pump Station and Basin seek to address expected increased urban and industrial runoff concerns by creating adequate detention to capture the increased runoff in RD 784 drainage

basins B and C allowing natural water quality improvements and groundwater recharge to occur with the ability to discharge flows, when needed, to avoid local flooding concerns.

*Ecosystem Benefits* – The project does not currently contain any direct ecosystem restoration components. However, the detention facility in itself creates potential for natural inhabitation by migratory birds, Giant Garter Snake, nesting raptors, riparian and upland savannah vegetation, and other native ecosystems to occur.

### **Statewide Priorities**

The project also addresses Statewide Priorities in that it is a small surface basin that captures urban storm water runoff for percolation into aquifers for the benefits of surrounding groundwater recharge, creates a sump basin downhill of development for water quality, provides benefit for climate change in that it creates additional peak storage capacity, improves internal basin flood protection while providing beneficial habitat, protects both surface and groundwater quality by allowing runoff storage increased percolation time while sediment can naturally settle out of the water, benefits a disadvantaged community, and is a multi-benefit project for the affected community.

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<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=68&minmeasure=5>